

(c) Your entitlement to benefits ends with the month before the month of your death.

[48 FR 21926, May 16, 1983]

§ 404.312 Old-age benefit amounts.

(a) If your old-age benefits begin at age 65, your monthly benefit is equal to the primary insurance amount.

(b) If your old-age benefits begin after you become 65 years old, your monthly benefit is your primary insurance amount plus an increase for retiring after age 65. See § 404.313 for a description of these increases.

(c) If your old-age benefits begin before you become 65 years old, your monthly benefit amount is the primary insurance amount minus a reduction for each month you are entitled before you become 65 years old. These reductions are described in §§ 404.410 through 404.413.

[44 FR 34481, June 15, 1979, as amended at 51 FR 12604, Apr. 14, 1986]

§ 404.313 Using delayed retirement credit to increase old-age benefit amount.

(a) *General.* (1) If you do not receive old-age benefits for the month you reach age 65 (retirement age) or for any later month before the month in which you reach age 70 (72 before 1984), you may earn delayed retirement credits which will increase your benefit amount when you retire. You earn delayed retirement credits for each of those months for which you are fully insured and are eligible for but do not receive old-age benefits, either because of your work or earnings, or because you have not applied for benefits. If you were entitled to old-age benefits before age 65 you may still earn delayed retirement credit for months beginning with age 65 in which your benefits were reduced to zero because of your work or earnings.

(2) Retirement age is the age at which entitlement to full benefits may begin and is the age at which you may begin to earn delayed retirement credits. Age 65 is the retirement age for workers who reach that age before the year 2003. For workers who reach age 65 after 2002, retirement age will gradu-

ally increase from 65 to 67, depending on each person's date of birth.

(b) *How we determine delayed retirement credits—*(1) *General.* The amount of the delayed retirement credit depends on the year you reach retirement age, and the number of months you are eligible for and do not receive old-age benefits from retirement age to age 70 (72 before 1984). We total these months, which need not be consecutive, multiply the total by the applicable percent as provided in paragraphs (b)(2), (3), and (4) of this section, multiply your benefit amount by this product, and round to the next lowest multiple of \$0.10 if the answer is not already a multiple of \$0.10. The result is your delayed retirement credit which we add to your benefit amount. The supplementary medical insurance premium, if any, is then deducted and the result is rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$1.00 if it is not already a multiple of \$1.00.

(2) *Before 1982.* If you reach age 65 before 1982, your delayed retirement credit equals one-twelfth of one percent of your benefit amount times the number of months after 1970 in which you are age 65 or older and for which you are eligible but do not receive old-age benefits.

(3) *After 1981 and before 1990.* If you reach age 65 after 1981 and before 1990, your delayed retirement credit equals one-fourth of one percent of your monthly benefit amount times the number of months in which you are age 65 or older and for which you are eligible but do not receive old-age benefits.

(4) *Beginning with 1990.* If you reach age 65 in 1990 or later, the rate of the delayed retirement credit (i.e., one-fourth of one percent as stated in paragraph (b)(3) of this section) is increased by one-twenty-fourth of one percent in each even year through 2008. Thus, depending on when you reach age 65, your delayed retirement credit percent will be as follows:

Year you reach age 65	Delayed retirement credit percent
1990	7/24 of 1 percent.
1991	7/24 of 1 percent.
1992	1/3 of 1 percent.
1993	1/3 of 1 percent.
1994	3/8 of 1 percent.
1995	3/8 of 1 percent.
1996	9/12 of 1 percent.